

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during March 2013

As of March 31, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 75 percent of average to date; runoff, 70 percent of average to date; snow water equivalent, 40 percent of average for the date (40 percent of the April 1 average); and reservoir storage, 95 percent of average for the date. Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff, for Water Year 2013, observed through March 31, 2013 was about 8.2 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 75 percent of average. For comparison during Water Year 2012, on March 31, 2012, the observed Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff through that date was about 5.7 MAF, or about 52 percent of average.

Similar to January and February, March had significantly below average rainfall, for almost all of California. On March 31, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 39.6 inches, which is about 95 percent of the seasonal average to date and 79 percent of an average water year (50.0 inches). During March, the total precipitation for the 8-Stations was 4.3 inches, which is about 62 percent of the monthly average. Last year on March 31, the seasonal total for the 8-Stations was 33.2 inches, or about 80 percent of average for the date. The combined total January through March precipitation is the driest on record.

On March 31, the San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 23.2 inches, which is about 69 percent of the seasonal average to date and 57 percent of an average water year (40.8 inches). During March, the total precipitation for the 5-Stations was 2.3 inches, which is about 38 percent of the monthly average. Last year on March 31, the seasonal total for the 5-Stations was 19.0 inches, or about 57 percent of average for the date. The combined total January through March precipitation is the driest on record.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 03/31/2013 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2012 - 2013 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2011 - 2012 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg "Water Year" Jul 1 to Jun 30 2012- 2013
Eureka	28.27	82	33.28	97	70
Redding	24.12	81	20.02	68	70
Sacramento	13.98	85	9.76	59	75
San Francisco	15.27	72	12.84	60	65
Fresno	5.50	55	6.13	62	48
Bakersfield	3.03	53	3.31	58	47
Los Angeles	6.44	54	6.09	52	50
San Diego	6.23	66	7.13	76	60

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 03/31/2013								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	2,077	1,960	106	2,448	85	---	371
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,771	3,736	101	4,552	83	-781	781
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,982	2,754	108	3,538	84	-177	556
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	805	695	116	966	83	9	161
Folsom Lake	American	601	626	96	977	62	-100	376
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,554	1,486	105	2,420	64	-485	866
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,408	1,474	96	2,030	69	-282	622
Lake McClure	Merced	471	578	81	1,025	46	-265	554
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	316	360	88	520	61	-204	204
Pine Flat Res	Kings	363	560	65	1,000	36	-549	637
Isabella	Kern	87	195	45	568	15	-274	481
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,299	1,874	69	2,039	64	---	740

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range, 1-month precipitation outlook for April 2013, issued March 31, 2013, suggests no tendency for above or below average rainfall for all of California.